

REMARKS

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 12-14. Claim 12 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and is now in allowable form. Claims 13 and 14, as well as new claims 36-41 depend from claim 12, as amended. It is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims, claims 13, 14 and 36-41, are also allowable as being dependent from an allowable claim.

In the present application, Claims 11-14 and 30-41 are currently pending. Claims 1-10 and 15-29 have been cancelled. Claims 36-41 have been added. Claims 12-14 and 30-35 have been amended. Reexamination and reconsideration of the claims, as amended, are respectfully requested and an allowance at an early date solicited.

Claim Objections

The Examiner made claim objections to claims 12-14, 34 and 35. Corrections have been made as suggested to these claims, except claim 12 which was amended to be in independent form. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the claim objections have been overcome, and it is requested that the objections be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

The Examiner rejected claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Woolley Jr. (5,033,785). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A handheld electric part handling device according to the present invention is provided with, among others, "a switching member for switching the biasing direction of the biasing member between the first and second directions" as claimed in claim 11. The device according to the present invention, at least in one embodiment, is designed to be able to switch between two states. One state is where a first leg of the device is biased in a first direction to open the first and second legs and in a second direction to close the legs. In the second state, the switching member is employed to switch the biasing direction of the biasing member between the first and the second directions.

Woolley does not disclose or suggest switching of the biasing directions at all. The clamp elements 42, 52 are driven downwardly within a mechanism housing 23 shown in Figs. 3 and 4. The clamp mechanism is in the open position to receive an article. As the clamp descends, a pin 50 strikes surface 35 halting the downward movement and a toggle 60 drives the clamp to close fingers 68 and 72. Please see the Woolley reference, col. 4, lines 35-57. However, there is no mention of switching the directions of the bias at all.

The Examiner rejected claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Femling (5,938,258). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In the Femling device, as shown in Fig. 2, a wedge member 7 moves upward and downward along a surface 34 of a movable mount 22. A pair of gripping members 12 and 14 is provided to protrude at the bottom of the device. When the wedge member 70 is moved downward, it swings the upper portion of the movable mount 22, which in turn causes the first gripping member 12 to close. When the wedge member 70 is moved upward, a spring 82 biases the movable mount 22 so that the gripping member 12 opens. However, nowhere in the Femling reference, is it disclosed or suggested that the wedge member 70 switches the direction of the opening and closing of the gripping member 12, or that the gripping members 12, 14 open as the wedge member 70 moves downward and close as the latter moves upward. It therefore fails to disclose or suggest the "switching member for switching the biasing direction of the biasing member between the first and second directions," as required.

Femling deals with the problems of a hand-held device such as physical injuries to muscles and nerves of the hand in a manner which is very different from the present invention. It deals with them by utilizing a pressurized air source, and not by a provision of the "switching member for switching the biasing direction of the biasing member between the first and second directions," as required by the claims.

Claims 30-35 depend from claim 11, and it is respectfully submitted that claims 30-35 are allowable for the same reasons set forth above with respect to claim 11.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Examiner rejected Claims 30-33 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Woolley Jr. or Femling in view of Vandermark (3,804,320) or Conti (4,553,021). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Neither Vandermark nor Conti overcomes the deficiencies of Woolley and/or Femling. In other words, Vandermark and Conti do not provide the requisite biasing member as claimed. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Woolley, Femling, Vandermark, and Conti, either singly or in any combination, fail to disclose or suggest the claimed invention. Claims 30-33, as amended, depend from claim 11, and are patentable for the same reasons set forth above in connection with claim 11.

The Examiner rejected Claims 34-35 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Woolley Jr. or Femling in view of Vandermark (3,804,320) or Conti (4,553,021). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Both Vandermark and Conti fail to make up for the deficiencies of either Woolley or Femling. Woolley, Femling, Vandermark and Conti, either singly or in any combination, fail to disclose or suggest the present invention as claimed in Claims 34 and 35, as amended. Claims 34 and 35 depend from claim 11 and are patentable for the same reasons set forth above in connection with claim 11.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that pending claims, claims 11-14 and 30-41 are now in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the claims, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the cancelled claims at a later date.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 07-1853 (Order No. 72749.2.) Should such additional fees be associated with an extension of time, applicant respectfully

requests that this paper be considered a petition therefore.

Respectfully submitted,



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